

COSTA RICA:

Trejos Flores, Eladio  
Tattenbach Yglesias, Christian  
Esquivel de la Guardia, Ruben

State Dept. declassification instructions on file

UNCLASSIFIED

REPORT OF DIPLOMATIC VISA ISSUED

American Embassy  
San José, Costa Rica

31 August 1953

1. NAME: Isabel Montero de TREJOS
2. OTHERS INCLUDED IN PASSPORT: None
3. ISSUING AUTHORITY: Minister of Foreign Affairs, San José, Costa Rica, 26 August 1953
4. KIND: Diplomatic Passport No. 2277
5. BIRTH: Not known
6. RANK: Wife of Chief Costa Rican Delegate to General Assembly of United Nations, Session VIII
7. DUTIES: None
8. TRANSPORTATION: Not known
9. ENTRY: Not known
10. CLASSIFICATION: Diplomatic Visa No. 8, G-1, 28 August 1953
11. DEROGATORY INFORMATION: None

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Post: San Jose, Costa Rica  
Date Prepared August 19, 1953

Name TREJOS (Flores) Eladio

Mr. TREJOS was born in the City of Heredia on November 24, 1911 in a substantial middle class Costa Rican family. He was educated in the public schools of San José, attended the law school of the National University and was admitted to the bar on November 24, 1934. While at law school he founded (in 1933) the monthly magazine "Jurisprudence", which became the official organ of the local bar association. He served as its editor during the first four years of its existence. In 1941 he was one of the founders of the Democratic Party for the specific purpose of furthering the re-election of former President Leon Cortés in the 1944 presidential elections. In 1947 he was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Union Party which nominated Mr. Ulate as presidential candidate.

In the 1942 mid-term congressional elections two young and quite unknown layers, Mr. TREJOS and Fernando LARA surprised everyone (including probably themselves) by winning congressional seats on the slate of the Democratic Party of Leon Cortés (who had left the presidency in 1940) by decisively trouncing administration candidates. Both were politically inexperienced, hardly known outside of their profession and university circles and had surprised everyone by the zeal of their campaign on behalf of the ex-president who by that time had already reached an open break with his successor, Dr. Calderon Guardia. Their victory was all the more remarkable because this was the election in which the communists, running their own slate of congressional candidates, polled the highest number of votes (17,000 in round numbers) they were ever to secure in Costa Rica. Thus, from the very outset of their political careers, these two deputies became identified with the opposition. Both took a prominent part in the unsuccessful congressional opposition to the machination of the Calderonistas and the communists. Both bitterly opposed the Calderonista maneuvers in the Congress which finally led to the invalidation of the February 1948 presidential and congressional elections (in which Mr. Trejos was re-elected).



Lic. don ELADIO TREJOS

Messrs. TREJOS and LARA have been virtually inseparable companions ever since they were admitted to the bar in 1934. They formed a still existing law partnership in which LARA (now Foreign Minister) supplied the brains and TREJOS the brawn.

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TREJOS

b. c. R. 1911; est. 1934; educ. Liceo de C. R., Coleguo de Abogados de C. R. Languages: Spanish and some English and French. Representative of Constitutional 1942-46, 1948-43. Specialized in contracts, commercial law and notorials. Clients referred to: Canada Dry Bottling Co; Jorge Zeledon Castro, Roberto Zeledon Sucesores, Augusto Colombari, all of San José. Mail: Apartado 293, San Jose, C.R.

Emb. D. 321, San Jose, 31 Mar. 50 -- Unclassified

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Roberto Fernandez Zuniga ) Emb. S.J.D. 118  
Ruben Esquivel de la Guardia ) 14 Aug. '53 C.

San José  
8/19/53

In the 1949 congressional elections Mr. TREJOS ran on an independent ticket of his own for the district of Vuelta de Jorco/San Ignacio de Acosta of the Province of San José. He called his party the "democratico Cortesista". Early in 1953 Mr. TREJOS became a prominent contender for the presidency (chairmanship) of the Assembly and failed to secure this important position by a single vote, being defeated by a vote of 23 to 22. Throughout his current term in the Assembly he has served as chairman of the Committee on Economy and Treasury. After LARA was named Foreign Minister, Mr. TREJOS assumed the position of party whip for Mr. Ulate in the Assembly. He was not any too successful in holding the president's followers in line in the Assembly.

Politically, Mr. TREJOS is somewhat of a maverick. While he likes to be known as an independent and did get elected that way in 1949, he is an opportunist who generally manages to jump on the bandwagon while the jumping is good. Thus he declared himself in favor of the candidacy of Mr. Figueres early in 1953. Later, when the question of a plebiscite on the question of amending Article 132 of the Constitution (with a view to permitting President Ulate becoming a presidential candidate in 1958) became a leading issue, he promptly jumped once again and became a leader in the plebiscite movement, even though the National Liberation Party of Mr. Figueres apparently was not in favor of the move.

Mr. TREJOS has rather prominent feature and is swarthy complexioned. He dresses well but not fastidiously. He is fond of having a good time (parties) and is somewhat -- but not unduly so -- prone to flattery. He is by no means as brainy as his law partner, Foreign Minister LARA, but is of the persistently plodding type which is rather difficult to change once he has made up his mind. Although he possesses a good deal of innate political acumen, his background is along the Costa Rican provincial rather than along international lines. His record is such, however, especially vis a vis communism and the USSR that he can be expected to go along with the United States on virtually all major questions of policy. As witnessed by his defeat for the chairmanship of the Assembly, he is not a skilful negotiator. His greatest strength lies in his persistency; his weakness in his occasional inconsistency. In contrast to Mr. Lara, who at least publicly remained neutral, he took the Figueres side, as stated, early this year. In view of subsequent developments in connection with the plebiscite issue it remains to be seen whether he will secure a sinecure in the new administration.

All in all, Mr. TREJOS is not unattractive and he possesses a certain amount of personal charm. At some future date he will probably again become a member of the National Assembly and conceivably may reach a cabinet post some day.

He is married to Mr. Isabel Montero de TREJOS. Mrs. Trejos is a daughter of Dr. Aniceto MONTERO (on whom there is a file in the Department) who is currently practicing medicine in the United States, and his divorced Belgian first wife. The couple have three minor children ranging in age from ten to less than one year. Both Mr. and Mrs. Trejos have some independent means and while relatively well off by Costa Rican standards, cannot be considered as independently wealthy.

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Division of Biographic InformationESQUIVEL de la Guardia, RubénCOSTA RICA

Personal data: Born in Puntarenas, Costa Rica about 1895, son of a Costa Rican father (of the large Esquivel family) and a Panamanian mother, Berenice de la Guardia.

Education: Diploma as certified accountant.

Languages: Some English.

Career:

Prior to 1942 Public accountant; farmer; merchant and (for eight years) Consul General in Buenos Aires.  
 1942 Chief, Office of Supplies.  
 1950 Secretary to Costa Rican Permanent Delegation to the United Nations, appointed March 18;  
 Delegate to UN General Assembly, fifty session, Lake Success, September.  
 1951 Secretary of Delegation, UN General Assembly, sixth session, Paris, November.

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Remarks:

☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest  
 An unsuccessful gentleman, farmer and merchant for the greater part of his life, Rubén, sometimes called "Virillo" Esquivel, has no particular political importance in Costa Rica. He served under Calderón Guardia as Chief of the Supply Office (his only government experience up until that time), and in 1947 was reportedly responsible for the maneuvering and behind-the-scenes manipulations which resulted in the nomination of Utilio Ulate for the presidency. Reputedly tactless, unintelligent, and even stupid at times, his appointment as Secretary to the Costa Rican Permanent Delegation to the United Nations was apparently a sop to prevent the realization of his higher aspirations, for it is known that he coveted the post of Ambassador to Argentina in return for his "services" during the Convention of 1947. 1/

During the latter half of the fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Costa Rican delegation was to all intents and purposes composed solely of Esquivel. Although in the final rushed days of the session he felt himself extremely harassed as the sole representative of his country, he was affable and well-meaning and sought to give the United States representation support whenever possible. 2/

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November 19, 1951

1/ CBD, San José, March 21, 1950 (Confidential).

2/ Memorandum from a member of U.S. Delegation to UN General Assembly, fifth session, dated June 11, 1951.

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Managua, Letter from Raymond J. Barrett, 2nd Sec. US Emb., 16 July '53.

Tattenbach presented credentials 7 Feb 53, Single, pleasant, timid or reticent. Intelligent, somewhat european in manner. Ulate supporter, appears to be anti-Figueroa, speaks fluent German; English halting but improving.

de Tattenbach, Christian

Worked with father in development of "Los Guayabillos" dairy farm, valuable property on slopes of Irazu volcano.

Studious and charming young man and certainly is more cultured than average Costa Rican of his age.

During general alien registration in 1941 he showed his nationality as German but adopted Costa Rican citizenship when he became of age.

Source:

Emb. San Jose, 12 Sep. 51/

# OUTGOING AIRGRAM

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A-64 February 11, 1953

The following biographic data available in the Department on Christian TATTENBACH Iglesias, newly appointed Costa Rican Ambassador to Nicaragua (Ref. Desp. 702, San José, January 26, 1953), are submitted for the mission's information:

Christian Tattenbach Iglesias is a charming, studious young man whose diplomatic experience dates from September 1, 1951, when he received his appointment as Ambassador to Guatemala. He was included as a member of the Costa Rican delegation to the Cuban Independence festivities in May 1952. He was also a delegate to the seventh session of UIGA in New York, serving as a representative on Committees II and III and the Ad Hoc Political Committee, and as alternate representative on Committee I and VI.

Although a relative newcomer in the field, Mr. Tattenbach has a diplomatic background. His grandfather on his mother's side was one of the most distinguished statesmen in Costa Rica's history. Both his father and his paternal grandfather were officers in the German diplomatic service. His father, Count Franz von Tattenbach von Meteler, was Secretary and Chargé d'Affaires of the German Legation in Costa Rica in the early 1920's and married Luisa Yglesias Rodriguez, a daughter of the late President Yglesias. Their son Christian, was born in San José on January 10, 1924. After the rise of the Nazi regime in Germany, Count von Tattenbach, who had served a tour of duty as Chief of Protocol in the German Foreign Office and as Minister to Venezuela, resigned from the German diplomatic service and settled in Costa Rica, becoming a naturalized citizen.

Christian Tattenbach, who chose his mother's nationality by option when he became of legal age, was educated in the Costa Rican schools. He graduated from the local "Seminario", a Catholic high school run by German Paulist Priests, and assisted his father for a time in the development of their large dairy farm. His only previous public service was on the National Wage Council, the joint committee entrusted with recommending minimum rates, which elected him as its presiding officer.

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